

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method for selectively applying course content updates in a learning management system, the method comprising the step of processing an update to course metadata without also processing an update to course content in the learning management system.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of
identifying within a course package a course metadata update to an associated course master;
determining whether to wholly reject said course metadata update to said associated course master, or to apply said course metadata update to said associated course master;
further determining whether to apply said course metadata update to existing course offerings based upon said associated course master, or whether to exempt said existing course offerings from said course metadata update
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
extracting a package identifier for said course package;
comparing said identifier with other identifiers associated with existing course masters disposed within the learning management system; and,
performing said identifying, determining and further determining steps only where said comparison indicates that said course package incorporates said update.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
listing said associated course master in a list of course masters slated for update;
and,
removing said listing responsive to wholly rejecting said course metadata update to said associated course master.

5. A method for updating a course delivered through a learning management system, the method comprising the steps of:
authoring a course metadata update to an existing course deployed within the learning management system;
packaging said course metadata update in a course package without also packaging course content in said course package and importing said course package into the learning management system; and,
selecting whether to apply said course metadata update to all course offerings for said existing course, or only to new course offerings for said existing course.

6. An updateable learning management system comprising:
a learning management server coupled to a delivery server;
a database coupled to said learning management server and configured to store course masters arranged to describe course offerings for deployment in said delivery server; and,
update logic disposed within said learning management server, said update logic comprising programming for selectively updating course offerings disposed in said

delivery server with one of updated course metadata alone, updated course content alone, and both updated course metadata and course content, based upon a course update package uploaded into said learning management server.

7. The updateable learning management system of claim 6, further comprising an authoring tool programmed to produce update packages for importation into said learning management server.

8. The updateable learning management system of claim 6, further comprising a content server configured to be responsive to said delivery server for delivering course content to requesting clients in association with particular ones of said course offerings disposed in said delivery server.

9. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for selectively applying course updates in a learning management system, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform the step of processing an update to course metadata without also processing an update to course content in the learning management system.

10. The machine readable storage of claim 9, further comprising the steps of identifying within a course package a course metadata update to an associated course master;

determining whether to wholly reject said course metadata update to said associated course master, or to apply said course metadata update to said associated course master;

further determining whether to apply said course metadata update to existing course offerings based upon said associated course master, or whether to exempt said existing course offerings from said course metadata update

11. The machine readable storage of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

extracting a package identifier for said course package;

comparing said identifier with other identifiers associated with existing course masters disposed within the learning management system; and,

performing said identifying, determining and further determining steps only where said comparison indicates that said course package incorporates said update.

12. The machine readable storage of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

listing said associated course master in a list of course masters slated for update; and,

removing said listing responsive to wholly rejecting said course metadata update to said associated course master.